

August 5, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Regional Transportation Alliance – the voice of the business community on transportation in the Research Triangle region of North Carolina – I am pleased to express our support for the North Carolina Department of Transportation's *I-85/I-40 Foundations for Safer and Automated Transportation (FAST)* application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's BUILD Program.

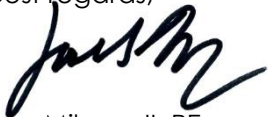
The I-85/I-40 corridor is critical to east-west travel across the state of North Carolina, as well as local, regional, and inter-city trips among three major metropolitan regions including the Raleigh-Durham-Cary-Chapel Hill/Research Triangle region, the Piedmont Triad area of Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and High Point, and the Charlotte metro area.

The I-85/I-40 FAST project will complete NCDOT's fiber-optic backbone from Raleigh to Charlotte, enabling immediate and reliable access to a variety of traffic management systems that will improve corridor performance and user safety. Enhanced digital connectivity will also support freight mobility and connected and automated vehicle deployment, as well as potential broadband access for urban and rural communities along the corridor.

This project is complemented by several other NCDOT grant applications and ongoing initiatives, demonstrating a coordinated strategy for mobility and connectivity across central North Carolina. The RTA is pleased to support our partners at NCDOT in these efforts.

Thank you for your consideration of this BUILD grant request from NCDOT. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at 919.664.7065 or joe@letsgetmoving.org.

Best regards,



Joe Milazzo II, PE
Executive Director
Regional Transportation Alliance